

Perhaps I've been asleep for a few years, but it has been my understanding that companies using public airwaves are not allowed to engage in electioneering activities. I have been opposed to recent media consolidation efforts and believe that Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force its stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, they concentrate, often to the detriment of the public they serve, on the bottom line rather than on fairminded reporting and programming. We need more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. The FCC should have the power and the will to prevent such corporate manipulation of the public. Thank you.